

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02173 041546Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----041939Z 053257 /45

R 041523Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2525

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 2173

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SY, US, XF, SZ
SUBJECT: CARTER-ASAD MEETING

REF: STATE 67966

1. PASSED INFO REFTEL TO KHADDAM'S PRIVATE SECRETARY
MARCH 29, LESS FYI SECTION PARA 1. KHADDAM CALLED ME IN
APRIL 2 TO SAY THAT SYRIA HOPES FOR THE LONGEST POSSIBLE
MEETING BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS SO THEY MAY GET TO
KNOW EACH OTHER'S VIEWPOINTS. HE ALSO ASKED THAT WE
FURNISH PRESIDENT CARTER'S ARRIVAL TIME IN GENEVA WHEN
DETERMINED IN ORDER TO COORDIATE ASAD'S DEPARTURE FROM
DAMASCUS.

2. REITERATED THAT WE WERE CONFIDENT TIME AVAILABLE
WOULD PERMIT A FULL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. I KNEW PRESIDENT
CARTER WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING ASAD AND DISCUSSING
MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT PROSPECTS WITH HIM. REMINDED
KHADDAM THAT SOLE PURPOSE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MAKING
THIS ROUND TRIP FROM LONDON WAS TO MEET
WITH ASAD.

3. COMMENT:

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PAGE 02 DAMASC 02173 041546Z

I STRONGLY ENDORSE IDEA OF ANY EARLY WORKING DINNER
AND HOPE PRESIDENT CARTER'S SCHEDULE WILL PERMIT THIS.
I ATTENDED ONE SUCH DINNER IN DAMASCUS WHICH ASAD
GAVE IN ROOM ADJACENT TO HIS OFFICE ATTENDED BY KHADDAM
AND ONE OR TWO SYRIANS, FOR THEN SECRETARY KISSINGER
AND, AS I RECALL, FOUR OR FIVE OF HIS OFFICIAL PARTY.
ASAD IS AT HIS MOST RELAXED IN SUCH A SETTING AND

I BELIEVE IT COULD PROVIDE INSIGHTS INTO
HIS THINKING ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE
PROCESS WHICH MIGHT NOT BE SO READILY DESCERNABLE IN
THE STRUCTURE OF THE MORE FORMAL AFTERNOON TALKS.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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